

ICLEI at Rio+20

Avenues for local government involvement



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 2012

Invitation to local governments to participate at Rio+20



The role of ICLEI and Local Governments at Rio+20

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development that will take place in Rio in June 2012, better known as Rio+20, will be a **crucial opportunity** for local governments to play their role in determining the future sustainability of the planet. ICLEI can help organize your involvement and channel your efforts. As organizing partner for the local authorities major group, ICLEI has a leading role in linking local government to Rio+20.

ICLEI is providing you with the necessary information, for example in the **Briefing Sheets** on the UN process around Rio+20 and on the Green Urban Economy (available at www.iclei.org/local2012). Case studies will be made to highlight the most relevant local initiatives.

The **Local Sustainability Study 2012** will be published by ICLEI just before Rio+20. It will document and analyze a range of Local Agenda 21 and other sustainability processes in order to draw conclusions for the way forward.

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What is the Rio+20 Global Town Hall?

The Rio+20 Global Town Hall is ICLEI's main event at Rio+20. It is convened by ICLEI and will be run in cooperation with partners. ICLEI has a solid background in international environmental efforts, starting with Local Agenda 21 initiated at the 1992 Rio conference. The Global Town Hall, officially endorsed by UN DESA, will build on this experience.

The Rio+20 Global Town Hall will:

- Be a **vibrant common space for dialogue and interaction** in the middle of the Rio+20 conference venue;
- Host a **diverse program** in which key actors from all parts of the world report how local sustainability advanced over the past years, share and debate visions for the future, launch initiatives, forge new partnerships and **get involved in the Rio+20 themes**;
- Be the venue to discuss how local governments can best contribute to global targets for protecting global common goods, how to green the urban economy and how to improve global and local governance systems;
- Have an open space and an inclusive amphitheater set-up that allows for **lively and participatory discussions**.

How is the Rio+20 Global Town Hall connecting leaders?

The program at the Rio+20 Global Town Hall will involve Mayors, local government experts, UN representatives, national governments, business, NGOs, academia, media and other deputies from all around the world.

All delegates at the conference will be able to participate in the rich program. The Global Town Hall will be located at the main Rio+20 venue. It will serve as a **central meeting point** where delegates representing local, national, or global actors can meet and exchange.

The Global Town Hall will also be accessible via **video link**. It will be possible to attend the conference virtually. The video link will allow important actors to address the participants with live video speeches.



Why should you be part of the Rio+20 Global Town Hall?

ICLEI invites **local governments** to become our **active partners** at the Rio+20 Global Town Hall. The Rio+20 Global Town Hall has the goal of ensuring that the potential of **local decision-making capacity** is tapped into when a new compact for sustainable development is designed. Cities and other municipal areas should not merely be at the conference to observe and give advice. Instead their expertise and capacity to act should be seized upon and their **role as actors** recognized. With this in mind we ask Local Governments to become our **partners** or **co-hosts**.



What kind of involvement is possible?

There are three options how your local government can be involved in the Rio+20 Global Town Hall:

- Present your city during a **30 minute slot**, showing how your city is contributing to a green economy in the context of sustainable development. The associated cost for the time and space of 5.000 Euro has to be covered.
- Become a **regional co-host** and gain global visibility for the leadership role your city is taking regionally and globally by being prominently associated with the Rio+20 Global Town Hall. Ask us for details.
- Become a **partner** to actively shape the program jointly with partners such as ICLEI, UN and other international organizations, present your city's achievements and be recognized as a globally leading city. Ask us for details.



Next steps

By October 2011 ICLEI had sent out invitations to key partners, such as UNEP, UN-Habitat, the City of Rio, C40, UCLG, nrg4SD, WBCSD, Club of Rome, Club de Madrid and others, asking them to become endorsers or partners of the Rio+20 Global Town Hall. In the coming months ICLEI will continue to talk with these and others in order to build up the overall concept and make concrete program preparations.

If you are interested in getting involved with Rio+20 and the Global Town Hall, you are encouraged to contact the ICLEI World Secretariat as soon as possible.

